APR 1 9 2004 B

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the U.S. Postal Service with sufficient postage as first class mail in an envelope addressed to Commissioner for Patents, P.O. Box 1450,

Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 on the date indicated below.

Jodi A. Calderon

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Inventor:

Don Vaughan et al

Art Unit: 3753

Serial No.

09/998,060

Examiner: Stephen M. Hepperble

Filed:

November 30, 2001

Confirmation No.: 5496

For:

Quiet Flow Control Washer for Water Softener or the Like

Attorney Docket: 31.043

Customer No.: 23598

AMENDMENT

Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450 RECEIVED

APR 2-3 2004

Dear Sir:

TECHNOLOGY CENTER R3700

In response to the Office Action mailed February 25, 2004, please amend the above-identified application as follows.

Amendments to the claims begin on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks begin on page 13 of this paper.

OK to outer